

curriculum. 32 high school students constructed a multi-level, four-bedroom home, which Rockford Area Habitat for Humanity sold to a local family in need of safe and affordable housing. In doing so the students mastered the skills needed for their post-graduation trades careers.

It is because of community projects like Building New Opportunities that make me proud to represent Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally honor Rockford's "Building New Opportunities" for being awarded the 2020 Governor's Hometown Project Award for their efforts in the community.

IN HONOR OF WILLIE JAMES
"BILL" MCNAIR

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of Willie James "Bill" McNair, Sr. who passed away after a long and fruitful life at 102 years of age on September 26, 2021, in Port Saint Joe Florida.

Mr. McNair served honorably in the U.S. Army during World War II and was a member of VFW Post 10069. On his return from service, he served for 30 years as a mail carrier for the St. Joe Paper Company. As a licensed chauffeur, Mr. McNair also drove top executives to and from the airport before retiring in 1981.

Willie James McNair Sr. celebrated his 100th birthday in July 2019 with more than 200 family members and friends, including the last of Mr. McNair's surviving siblings, Mildred 98 and Mercedes 96 years old at that time. All three siblings share the same birthday—July 16th, born two years apart.

Mr. McNair was presented with a commemoration for his birthday signifying his service on the Trustee Board of Zion Fair Missionary Baptist Church and another honoring his service to the community.

Madam Speaker, again, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the long life of Willie James "Bill" McNair, Sr.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF
ACADEMY HILL SCHOOL

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Academy Hill School on celebrating their 35th anniversary. This milestone achievement deserves the highest praise for the hard work and dedication of the school's faculty and staff, as well as those students whose remarkable commitment to learning has played a pivotal role in the school's success.

Although established in 1986, the Academy Hill School began operating in 1979, offering enrichment classes to gifted students throughout the Greater Springfield community. Two years after opening their full-time day school

in 1986, the Academy Hill Center for Gifted Children was incorporated as a non-profit organization. Over the next three decades, Academy Hill would grow and expand their campus, relocating to their current location on Liberty Street in Springfield, and nearly doubling their total enrollment in their K-8 program. This past year has reminded us of the critical role our schools play in our children's lives, with millions of educators across the country taking on the tremendous responsibility of providing our students equitable educational opportunities in a safe and healthy environment. Therefore, I cannot think of a more appropriate occasion to celebrate all that the Academy Hill School has accomplished over the past 35 years.

Madam Speaker, I would like to once again congratulate the Academy Hill School on celebrating their 35th anniversary, and thank them for continuing to inspire our students. Academy Hill is a cherished member of Massachusetts' First District, and I wish them many more years of success and prosperity.

HONORING ELBA GONZALEZ-
MARES

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Elba Gonzalez-Mares in celebration of her 15th anniversary at Community Health Initiative (CHI) in Napa County.

Born in Puebla, Mexico, Ms. Gonzalez-Mares moved to California when she was just a year old, and now lives in Napa, California. She attended the University of California, Davis where she received her bachelor's degree in international relations in 2005. After finding her passion for helping the most vulnerable in her community, Ms. Gonzalez-Mares began working as a health access assistant at Community Health Initiative, a non-profit organization dedicated to enrolling families in affordable health insurance plans. She then became the coordinator and manager for the organization before working her way up to becoming the executive director. She has expanded CHI from serving only the Napa community to serving several counties throughout California. As a result of her commitment to aiding underprivileged communities, Ms. Gonzalez-Mares has helped thousands of individuals and families gain access to quality health care coverage.

In addition to serving in her various roles at CHI, Ms. Gonzalez-Mares has held numerous positions dedicated to helping underserved communities. She became the board chair of California Coverage and Health Initiatives (CCHI), a statewide association that helps families navigate through affordable healthcare services. Ms. Gonzalez-Mares became commissioner for First 5 Napa County, a nonprofit that provides support services for early childhood development. She was also elected as the president of the Napa Valley Unified School District Board of Trustees. Ms. Gonzalez-Mares is a member of the Community Leaders Coalition, an organization that advocates for vulnerable populations within the Napa County community. Additionally, Ms.

Gonzalez-Mares has assisted in creating a model for organizations similar to CHI to help individuals enroll in health care coverage and access health care services.

Madam Speaker, it is evident that Ms. Gonzalez-Mares has selflessly dedicated her career to helping Napa's most vulnerable communities. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, on October 20, 2021, I was not present for the vote on H.R. 3635, the Strengthening America's Strategic National Stockpile Act of 2021. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted in favor of the legislation.

CONGRATULATING MOUNT
CARROLL'S ARBOR DAY
PALOOZA FOR RECEIVING THE
2020 GOVERNOR'S HOMETOWN
PROJECT AWARD

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Mount Carroll's "Arbor Day Palooza" for its effort to replace trees that were lost to bugs, disease and storms. The organization received the 2020 Governor's Hometown Project Award for the incredible work it has done for the community.

The idea for "Arbor Day Palooza" was born from a desire to retain the character of the town, as it has been recognized as a Tree City for over 26 years. The city created a Tree Replacement Fund and the community bought in with many volunteers and donors coming forward to assist. In total, the project received over \$13,000 in donations used to plant 52 new trees on city property, hold an Arbor Day tree planting ceremony in the new Stone House Memorial Park and host a tour of the Stone House site.

It is because of events like "Arbor Day Palooza" and their organizers that make me proud to represent Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally honor "Arbor Day Palooza" for being awarded the 2020 Governor's Hometown Project Award for their efforts in the community.

RECOGNIZING THE DELAWARE
RIVER BASIN COMMISSION FOR
THEIR 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Delaware River Basin Commission. Founded in 1961, this collaborative partnership between the federal government and the four states which share the